



WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR.....1971

WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMANCouncillor J. Greenwood

VICE-CHAIRMANCouncillor N.A. Gilbert

COUNCILLORS:

T.G. Bush
A. Catterall
J. Cheyne
J.E. Day
Mrs. H.M. Dunn
Major A.P. Gumm
Major G.L.H. Huddleston

F.E. Norton
J.R. Rowe
W.A. Seymour
V.W. Swatridge
G.H. Wakefield
Col. P.J.K. Warren
W.L. Young

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMANCouncillor D. Burt

VICE-CHAIRMANCouncillor Mrs. J.A.
Dunk

COUNCILLORS:

R.H. Alchin
W.R.F. Andrews
T.G. Bush
C.O. Chaleel
J. Cheyne
R.B. Coles
J.E. Day
Mrs. H.M. Dunn
R.A. German
J. Greenwood
A.G. Gubbins

Major A.P. Gumm
E.N. Hall
E. Hasball
F.E. Norton
W.R. Ricketts
W.A. Seymour
H.B. Sinclair
P.E. Stevens
V.W. Swatridge
Col. P.J.K. Warren
A.F. West

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., CH.B., B. Pharm., D.P.H., holding appointments of:

School Medical Officer

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, Dorset County Council

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District Council

Wimborne Minster Urban District

Borough of Blandford Forum

Blandford Rural District

Medical Adviser to the Dorset Water Board

contributing roughly:-

Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ days per week
Wimborne Minster Urban District	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week
Borough of Blandford Forum	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week
Blandford Rural District	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W.R. Chick, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

F. Boam, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

M.D. Benwell, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

MEAT INSPECTORS:

A. Holmes, M.A.P.H.I.

R.E. Hargreaves, M.A.P.H.I.

E.S. Smith, Certified meat inspector

C. Corner, Certified meat inspector

Area Office,
Health Clinic,
Rowlands Hill,
Wimborne Minster,
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1971.

The year was distinguished, amongst other things, as anti-pollution year, and also as census year. Pollution and people are inevitably linked so that the rural district is a microcosm reflecting the problem of expanding population and its sequelae, albeit in a very sheltered way.

Members may be interested in the following analysis of population growth in the district for the last fifty years:-

Census Year	Census Population	Decanal %age Increase	"Pre" War & War-time %age increase Post-war increase	%age increase 1931 to 1971	%age increase in 50 years 1921 to 1971
1921	14,855	11.6%			
1931	16,572	?			
1941	?	?			
1951	21,432	31.2%			
1961	28,121	41.0%			
1971	41,888				

{ 11.6% }
 { ? }
 { ? }
 { 31.2% }
 { 41.0% }
 { 29.3% }
 { 95.5% }
 { 153% }
 { 182% }

The Registrar General's mid-1970 estimate was 37,540, based on natural increase only since the 1961 census and therefore cumulatively inaccurate. This explains the apparently very large jump of 4,600 to the mid-1971 estimate of 42,140, a realistic figure, being based on the accurate census taken three months earlier. The vital statistics in this report are for similar reasons at their decanal peak of accuracy.

Having surveyed the demography of the recent local past one may perhaps be forgiven for indulging in numerical nightmares, or fun with figures, by making projections for the future. Prefacing with an "if", which should be viewed through a powerful lens, if the rate of growth of the district stops accelerating, and settles down at about 40% per decade, or rather less than 4% per annum, here are the population figures for the next five decades:-

Population Projections, Wimborne & Cranborne Rural District Council, at assumed rate of growth of 40% per decade

<u>1971</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2021</u>
41,888	59,000	82,000	115,000	161,000	225,000

In the event that recent house prices ruthlessly cut this rate of expansion down to the pre-war figure of roughly 12% per decade, or rather more than 1% per annum, the projections are as follows:-

Population Projections, Wimborne & Cranborne Rural District Council at assumed rate of growth of 12% per decade

<u>1971</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2021</u>
42,000	47,000	52,600	59,000	66,000	74,000

Making the final and unlikely assumption that the rate of growth in the next fifty years will be the same as it was in the past 50 years yields much the same figure as the above, 76,500 in 2021.

It may be useful to see these figures against the national and world population background.

The rate of increase in England and Wales in 1971 was 0.44%, or 216,000 persons. The U.K. is the third most densely populated country in the world, England vies with Holland at the top of the league population density for the world. The density of population of England and Wales is twelve times that of the world, and that of S.E. England twenty times that of the world.

The growth rate of the developed countries is currently about 1% per annum, at which rate they will double their population in 70 years, and increase it by 145 times in 500 years. At this rate England and Wales would take 500 years to attain a population over twice that of the present population of the entire world, which is about 3,500 million. Even at an annual growth rate of 0.1% a population will double in 700 years. At its present rate of growth of 0.44% which is a relatively very low rate, attained particularly during the last

five years, the population of England and Wales would double in about 140 years.

The world growth rate is currently about two per cent and that of the poorer countries, which constitute the greatest part of the world population, is about 2.3 per cent, a few even 3 per cent and above. At this rate the world population doubled between 1930 and 1960.

This alarming state of affairs has not gone on from time immemorial. In the past 500 years the population of England and Wales increased by only about fourteen times. It did not really start to gain momentum until about 200 years ago.

The first 1000 million total world population level had been notched up by about 1830 A.D., perhaps three million years after the evolution of the first man-like creature. The second thousand million level was attained in a further mere 100 years, i.e. by 1930, the third took 30 years to 1960, the fourth is anticipated by 1975, the fifth by 1987, the sixth in 1995 and the seven thousand million level by 2000 A.D.

That this will not continue indefinitely seems certain because even if man does not take a hand to stop it nature certainly will. The tidal wave in Bengal is estimated to have killed half a million people, but it takes little more than a month to replace this number at the East Pakistan growth rate. Given sufficient people in sufficiently dire straits man begins to act irrationally and fratricide is one sequela, as has also been seen in East Pakistan even more recently.

Perhaps the biggest threat to mankind in the sphere of pollution is that due to atomic wastes, since man will have used up all fossil fuels in the easily foreseeable future and an enormous proliferation of atomic power stations will be obligatory; but in the meantime the new found spotlight on environmental pollution which attained the headlines in 1971 did not come too early. There had already been the Report of the Technical Committee on the Disposal of Solid Toxic Wastes in August 1970, giving valuable advice to local authorities and industry and the first report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution on the dumping of toxic wastes followed. In a district expanding as quickly as Wimborne and Cranborne an eye on the water sources, present

and foreseeable is essential. Rural districts tend to find themselves convenient dumping grounds for wastes emanating from nearby towns. Recent work at the University of Liverpool has demonstrated that some of the nation's water supplies are not quite so free from contaminants as perhaps was thought, and lead, cadmium, phenolic substances, and cyanide were found in certain water supplies. Toxic wastes, once dumped, cannot normally be recovered from soil and under-lying strata, necessitating the utmost consideration in choice of disposal sites.

One could be forgiven for thinking that lead is a newly recognised hazard but it is in fact a very ancient one which has attained a justifiable prominence recently from one or two "cause célèbre". The Romans used lead water conduits, the Saxons drank acid wine from pewter pots with a high lead content and Saxon bones have been found containing quite abnormal amounts of lead indicative of symptomatic poisoning in life. Considering the ease with which lead can be quantitatively analysed it is a little surprising that the prevalence of lead in water supplies in association with lead plumbing has not been more exhaustively investigated. It is probably one of those subjects which fall between two stools, on the one hand the water authority's responsibility stops with the service main, on the other hand the local authority is reluctant to disburse moneys on numerous analyses by the public analyst when it feels that the matter is one for the water authority or the occupier, and the occupier is blissfully ignorant!. This problem is unlikely to be a very significant one in a district like Wimborne and Cranborne with such a high proportion of modern homes, but there are old houses and perhaps some quite long runs of lead piping. Forthcoming reorganisation should desirably pinpoint responsibility for this type of hazard but the difficulties would probably melt away overnight if public analytical laboratories on a par with the public health bacteriological laboratories, giving a free service to local authorities, were to be sent up under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. One can envisage well equipped and staffed regional analytical laboratories instead of the present splintered and variable provision, and in fact the new Regional Water Authorities could very aptly form the caretaker organisation and nucleus for such a venture. Modern analytical apparatus becomes more expensive as it becomes more and more accurate and more automatic, and it is unfortunate to see one laboratory under-using such equipment and another entirely lacking it.

Before leaving the subject of pollution it is fascinating to learn that the first Public Health Act ever was promulgated in the City of London in 1388, and dealt with the removal of dung and entrails of

beasts, a problem of a growing urbanised population, a rarity in those days when the population of England and Wales was probably about four millions. It is ironic that after 600 years, modern intensive farming, so necessary to feed the masses, has created new problems in the disposal of these same commodities, problems which will presumably remain with us as long as opulent man freely indulges his carnivorous instincts. There is, however, increasing doubt as to whether man should continue to indulge so freely in this and other concomitants of opulence. The time that has elapsed since his ancestry climbed down out of the trees does not seem to have been long enough to allow him to fully adapt from a very active herbivore to a somewhat slothful omnivore, and in fact that other branch of the primates, the monkeys, having failed so signally to keep up with the prehistoric Joneses and who have stayed in the wilderness eating bananas and nuts suffer far less from coronary thrombosis, one of man's modern epidemics, than we do. We should take a (banana) leaf from the Simian book and eat less red meat and animal fats.

"And I have perceived nothing so much hinders the truth as urging it on men with too harsh importunity and falling too heavily on their errors",

Richard Baxter's autobiography.

For which excellent reason I do not intend to mention smoking, eating, fluoridation, exercise, or coronary thrombosis again in this report and any member wishing entirely to avoid reflection on these subjects should refrain from studying the statistical table of causes of death set out on page 15.

During 1971 the Director of the Public Health and Hospital Laboratory at Poole initiated routine testing of milk samples for Q fever virus in addition to the established investigations previously undertaken. A sample of milk infected with this virus disease was soon found, the sample having been sold in Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District by a producer retailer in Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District. Q fever virus is difficult and expensive to confirm and probably relatively infrequently diagnosed, only the more severe cases reaching hospital being sufficiently exhaustively investigated. It is capable of producing a sharp febrile illness, commonly with pneumonia and occasionally with inflammation of the internal lining of the heart,

rarely meningitis. It is found in milk cows and may be transmitted by direct contact to animal handlers, and via milk. Death is a rarity and when it occurs is due to the heart involvement. A consensus of opinion, especially consumer opinion, would probably favour some action being taken in this matter rather than that it should be quietly ignored as a troublesome scientific curiosity, especially since effective practical action would at the same time remove the risks of other time-honoured diseases being transmitted by raw milk, such as brucellosis, salmonellosis, and those due to the widespread families of germs such as staphylococci, streptococci and coli.

Three designations of milk can be licenced for sale, namely T.T. raw, pasteurised and sterilised. Sterilised milk, being cooked, is easily recognisable by taste, but carefully conducted tests by the former head of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Professor Sir Graham Wilson, demonstrated the inability of either biased or unbiased people to distinguish pasteurised from raw milk by taste, however vigorously they protested to the contrary. About 99% of the population of this country is supplied with heat treated milk, and the remaining 1% number some 500,000 people, many of whom are connected with farming and obtain raw milk otherwise than by normal retail channels, and many of whom are wise enough to pasteurise their own domestic supplies. There seems no good reason why the rest should be even slightly exposed to the risk of disease when the sole advantage is one of minor commercial profit to a very small number of farmers. Before we became a wholly T.T. milk country a special Ministerial waiver was required to sell raw non-T.T. milk. In these days of Food Hygiene Regulations when shop keepers can be prosecuted for not keeping food free from even the risk of contamination, it is surprising that so little protection is afforded to those consumers who purchase raw milk. Occasional bacteriological sampling is a very poor second best to pasteurisation. Infection of milk is often intermittent and it is pure luck if sampling happens to coincide with infection. Bacteriological testing is by no means 100% effective, is very expensive for the tax payer and the results are inevitably delayed, by about two months in the case of brucellosis and Q fever, so that shutting the stable door must necessarily follow at least two months after the horse has bolted.

In these days of modern transport and good roads there can be few areas in the country genuinely out of reach of a pasteurised milk supply, but such a supply may be deterred from penetrating a rural district simply because it is competing against a slightly cheaper product the risks associated with which are unknown to the majority of its consumers.

If food hygiene really has a place in these days of environmental awareness it should surely be extended to all, which means not only rural dwellers, but also the influx of unsuspecting holiday makers who are exposed to the risk of milk borne infection for two weeks a year in various small holiday areas, in hotels, guest houses, boarding houses and on caravan sites.

The designations of milk permitted to be retailed on licence should exclude raw milk, except where a specific waiver is permitted in those infrequent cases where the alternative would be no milk supply at all.

During the year three elderly women came under consideration as potentially requiring action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948. One was living in bizarre circumstances but was tidied over by much assistance from the Social Service Department and Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District Public Health Department and has managed to maintain an independent existence since. It would have been very difficult to fit this particular elderly lady into an old persons' home.

Another was a very sick old lady who was inundated with dogs with which she was progressively unable to cope, and her house became very insanitary indeed. Fortunately, sitting down and talking for an hour and a half resulted in the old lady going voluntarily to hospital, a vastly pleasanter way of dealing with the problem than obtaining an order under the Act. The third was a much harder proposition, the old lady having almost totally estranged herself from neighbours and relatives alike. She was found on the floor in a very parlous physical and mental condition on my second visit and was removed under an order obtained by her general practitioner and myself from a magistrate. A period in hospital proved beneficial and she was eventually fit enough to return to her home, which was a modern bungalow in good condition.

The facilities for miniature chest radiography came up for review during the year. Mass public sessions are no longer held in the rural district but a mobile unit attends weekly at the Civic Centre in Wimborne, and the Clinic at Ferndown. The idea of this is to provide convenient facilities by which local doctors can obtain chest X-rays, but although miniature radiographs are cheaper than full scale radiographs such a unit is inevitably expensive to run and staff, and a letter from the Regional Hospital Board suggested that these facilities would have to be withdrawn eventually and chest radiographs performed at the local hospital Radiography Departments. Mass radiography justifies itself only where the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis exceeds the average for the country and it would be a very expensive method indeed of tracing cases in a relatively low incidence area such as Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District. Tuberculosis is twenty times more common amongst Asiatic immigrants than in natives of this country, from which it will be readily appreciated that the problem in this district is a very small one, compared to that in some big industrial cities. It is nevertheless just as well to remember that there are still 2,500 deaths per year from tuberculosis in England and Wales.

Head lice staged a very small invasion of the district, as also did scabies. Both were very vigorously repelled before any spread could take place. It is tempting to attribute some of the spread of head lice to the less well coiffured long haired members of the male sex, some of whom are obviously less influenced than their female counterparts, by the dictum that Friday night is shampoo night, but this does not explain the resurgence of scabies during a time of peace and affluence, this condition being a feature of war-time, poverty and social upheaval.

For several years during Spring the inhabitants of Blandford Borough and adjacent riparian villages along the Stour have been subjected to a vicious plague of biting flies, authoritatively identified by Dr. Davis of Durham as Simulium austeni, which emerge from the river in vast numbers from about mid-April to mid-May and feed voraciously on man and animals for a few miles on either side of the river. Complaints from Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District have been growing

in the last two or three years and in 1971 these flies were identified in Ferndown.

The bites are characteristic. They produce marked irritation, pain which can be severe, often a blood blister three to six mms. in diameter, a raw area which may become septic and finally a scab which disappears in about one month. Firm swelling and redness occurs, occasionally completely surrounding a limb, often with lymphangitis and glandular involvement, and a temperature up to 102° has been recorded in cases of multiple bites. Numerous victims have required bed rest and a leg may for instance be too painful to put to the ground for a week, necessitating absence from work. There has been one case of phlebitis followed by pulmonary embolus, a very serious complication.

General Practitioners^{hi} in the worst affected areas in the Blandford district have been seeing roughly five persons per day during the period of emergence of the fly, amounting in the season to many hundreds of visits. Other doctors throughout the area are involved, and £2000 annually is a very conservative estimate of prescription costs and sickness absence.

Public annoyance and exasperation increase yearly and the problem has received publicity nationally and locally, in the press and on television. Threats to dump large quantities of insecticides into the river have been made and must be taken seriously. There is confirmatory expert evidence to support local opinion that the problem has increased annually. Some staff and Council members are coming to regard May with dismay.

Three methods of combating this problem have been considered. Firstly the use of insecticides. Secondly cutting river weeds which are literally foul with larvae and pupae in April and May, and thirdly, fundamental research.

Insecticides are widely condemned for their indiscriminate action, especially their toxicity for fish. Weed cutting is regarded with scepticism by River Board Staff owing to the sheer practical difficulties. The problem has been described by the Director of the Freshwater Biological Association Laboratory at Bindon Abbey as lending itself to research by a post-graduate science student with a view to finding a weakness in the natural history of the fly which could be exploited without harmful effects to the fauna and flora of the river, and this suggestion has subsequently come to fruition.

Requests for advice on the desirability of mass vaccination of various public and private staff organisations against influenza were received in the Autumn. Advice was given to the effect that this procedure was not justified and happily the subsequent winter confirmed this advice as having been correct. Such advice must necessarily vary from year to year according to the strains of influenza prevalent and the susceptibility of the population.

The customary statistical tables and information, and the report of the Chief Public Health Officer follows.

I would like to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their consideration and courtesy during the year.

I. B. Holburn

AUGUST, 1972

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	80,863
Population - mid year - as estimated by Registrar General ..	42,140
Total number of inhabited houses - 1.4.71 - Private	13,671
Council	1,343
Rateable value as at the 1st April 1971	£1,738,421
Estimated product of lp rate	£17,510

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total	286	268	554
Legitimate	266	255	521
Illegitimate	20	13	33

DEATHS OF INFANTS

Under one year	7	3	10
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	3	-	3

DEATHS - All Ages

274	191	465
-----	-----	-----

	<u>Wimborne & Cranborne</u> <u>R.D.C.</u>	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>
Standardised Death Rate ..	8.8	11.6	10.9
Standardised Birth Rate ..	14.3	16.0	15.7

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Poliomyelitis</u>		<u>Diphtheria</u>		<u>Tetanus</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Smallpox</u>		<u>Measles</u>	<u>Rubella</u>
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.		
Oral											
421	1036	405	483	425	756	396	66	154	43	442	197

P = Primary course
R = Reinforcing dose

HEAF TESTING AND BCG VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 13 years IN WIMBORNE AND DISTRICT

400 children were tested and of these 27 were found to give a positive reaction. 14 had been given BCG previously. 357 children were vaccinated with BCG vaccine.

SECTION A

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from local centres in Wimborne and Ferndown.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health laboratory now common to the hospital laboratory at Poole provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water. A large number of specimens were examined during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Wimborne, Ferndown, Colehill, Handley, Verwood, West Moors and Corfe Mullen. Ante-natal classes, speech therapy and audiometry are conducted in the clinics at Wimborne and Ferndown, the latter also providing accommodation for cervical cytology clinics, family planning, chiropody and Red Cross activities.

HOME HELP SERVICE

A local organiser for the Rural District and Wimborne Urban District attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service. She is based at the Ferndown Health Clinic and may be telephoned from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. from Monday to Friday.

SECTION B

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	...	234	Meningococcal		
Whooping Cough		32	Infection	...	1
Scarlet Fever		2	Food poisoning	...	1
Infective Hepatitis		1	Dysentery	...	1
			Tuberculosis	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	
Males 69	Males Nil
Females	... 58	Females 3

SECTION C

STATISTICAL TABLES....1971

CAUSES OF DEATH		MALE	FEMALE
ENTERITIS AND OTHER DIARRHOEAL DISEASES	...	1	-
TUBERCULOSIS OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	...	1	-
OTHER INFECTIVE AND PARASITIC DISEASES	...	-	1
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, OESOPHAGUS	...	1	1
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	...	4	5
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INTESTINE	...	14	10
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS	...	23	2
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST	...		9
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, UTERUS	...		3
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, PROSTATE	...	10	
LEUKAEMIA	...	-	3
OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	...	17	17
DIABETES MELLITUS	...	-	5
OTHER DISEASES OF BLOOD, ETC.	...	1	-
MENTAL DISORDERS	...	-	1
OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM	...	2	2
CHRONIC RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE	...	1	2
HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE	...	-	2
ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	...	96	50
OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	...	14	15
CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	...	28	31
OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	...	11	11
PNEUMONIA	...	7	4
BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	...	21	1
PEPTIC ULCER	...	1	2
INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION AND HERNIA	...	1	1
OTHER DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	...	1	1
NEPHRITIS AND NEPHROSIS	...	-	1
HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE	...	2	
OTHER DISEASES, GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	...	3	-
DISEASES OF MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM	...	1	1
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	...	2	3
BIRTH INJURY, DIFFICULT LABOUR, ETC.	...	3	-
OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	...	1	-
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	...	3	1
ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	...	2	4
SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES	...	2	1
ALL OTHER EXTERNAL CAUSES	...	-	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	...	274	191

Report

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Bakehouses	17
Butchers' Shops	100
Caravans and Moveable Structures	185
Canteens	9
Confectioners	46
Clubs	4
Drainage	277
Dairies	31
Factories etc	232
Fried Fish Shops	25
Fishmongers and Poulterers	21
Food Preparing Premises	20
Grocers	142
Greengrocers	35
Inspection of Houses under Public Health Acts	72
Inspection of Houses under Housing Acts	472
Inquiries into Cases of Infectious Diseases	11
Knackers Yards	-
Licensed Premises	27
Miscellaneous	-
Refuse Collection	} 202
Refuse Disposal	
Rodent Control	2,978
Restaurants	38
Stables and Piggeries	54
Schools	17
Visits to Slaughterhouses	255
Water Supply	212
Wholesalers	27

During 1971 a variety of complaints were dealt with by your Officers, and, as was pointed out in my report for 1970, the emphasis has changed considerably in the last few years.

Requests for assistance came from new residents taking up occupation in the area, and every effort was made to provide them with advice and, if possible, practical help. So far, only one member of our staff has acquired any expertise in trapping moles. The withdrawal of the services formerly provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food brought forth some irate comments from a new resident after surveying a ruined lawn. During the summer, endeavours were made to deal with wasps' nests, and a great many were rendered harmless.

The situation as regards the dumping of litter continued unabated. Much of the time spent on pursuing the subject of atmospheric pollution could be spent as profitably in preserving the countryside to which town dwellers could at intervals escape. The residents in the more populated part of the district were fortunate in having virtually unrestricted access to two large areas of common land in reasonable proximity, but unfortunately, this unrestricted access, meant to a small minority, a convenient place in which to dump litter.

The Three Legged Cross section of the Verwood drainage scheme was completed during the year and the majority of properties connected. All of the larger residential areas were at last provided with piped drainage.

Complaints as to the condition of the stream at Cogdean Elms were received on two or three occasions and were referred to the Rivers Board Inspectors. Some of the material discharged was of a different nature to that experienced on past occasions, and its origin was clearly from different sources. The occupiers of surrounding premises were visited in an endeavour to determine the origin of the trouble. Subsequently, conditions improved considerably.

With the assistance of Rivers Board Officers, a source of gross pollution of the River Crane was stopped off and the polluting material treated by land irrigation.

STAFF

STAFF

It was accepted by the Public Health Committee that the continuous expansion of the Cleansing Services had reached a level where an appointment rather more mobile in character than a working foreman, was necessary. Accordingly, the Cleansing Supervisor (Mr. R.A. Bennett) took up his post in July and concentrated his attention on the day to day organisation required for vehicles and staff. The increasing numbers of residential properties and the requirements of additional and larger office blocks and supermarkets needed constant review. Allied to these problems were the onerous responsibilities of the Council in relation to the standards of maintenance of their transport.

HOUSING

A slow flow of applications continued throughout the year and the majority were agreed by the Council. A number of enquiries were received as a result of publicity in the National Press, but in several cases requests were for assistance in providing central heating or replacing leaking roofs - the applicants were advised that the Council could not help.

Applications for Qualification Certificates continued to be received and it was found that an increasing amount of the Inspectors' time was necessary to deal with these applications in an effective manner.

The need for the use of Statutory powers remained on a small scale. The greater proportion of improvement and repair in this sector was achieved by informal action. In only two instances were formal notices issued, and in each case the owner undertook the required work without demur.

HOUSING ACT

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - 64

The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be not in all respects fit for human habitation	2
The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	1
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	NIL
The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	1
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	NIL
The number of demolition orders made	NIL
The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-sections (3) and (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	1
The number of houses demolished	2

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS REGULATIONS, 1959 SECTION 15 (4)

The number of dwellings overcrowded (at 31.12.71)	NIL
The number of families therein	NIL
The number of persons involved	NIL
The number of new cases reported (in 1971)	NIL
The number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	NIL
The number of persons involved	NIL
The number of return cases of overcrowding	NIL

Discretionary Grants

Discretionary Grants

Fifteen applications for discretionary grants were received involving sixteen units of accommodation. The total expenditure was £8,860 averaging £550 per house, as compared with £426 in 1969 and £618 in 1970.

Standard Grants

The following tables gives details, together with those for previous years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Tenanted</u>	<u>Baths</u>	<u>Wash-hand</u>	<u>Hot Water</u>	<u>W.C.'s</u>	<u>Sinks</u>
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Occupied</u>			<u>Basins</u>	<u>Supply</u>		
1962	30	19	11	29	30	30	29	
1963	38	22	16	31	33	34	34	
1964	42	23	19	35	37	40	41	
1965	48	18	22	35	38	40	35	
1966	32	18	14	28	30	31	28	
1967	28	16	12	27	28	28	27	
1968	27	16	11	26	26	27	26	
1969	21	13	8	20	19	21	21	
1970	31	23	8	29	31	31	29	13
1971	19	17	2	15	17	19	16	9

Total of Grants Approved (1971) = £4,778

Action Taken Under Housing Acts Since 1955

<u>Year</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Standard</u>
	<u>Demolished</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Repaired</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Grants</u>
1955	-	2	9	70	-
1956	9	13	49	111	-
1957	12	-	40	73	-
1958	12	1	117	67	-
1959	2	-	28	50	29
1960	10	1	15	61	50
1961	26	3	40	37	64
1962	17	-	103	57	35
1963	35	-	65	20	38
1964	18	1	76	36	42
1965	18	1	80	18	40
1966	13	-	36	12	32
1967	7	-	31	6	28
1968	9	-	15	10	27
1969	1	-	31	10	21
1970	5	-	40	15	31
1971	2	-	12	16	19
	<u>196</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>679</u>	<u>456</u>

CARAVAN SITES

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The residential sites continued to be operated satisfactorily although the increases in rents on some of the sites brought repercussions in the shape of complaints from site tenants. The level of rents for pitches on residential sites was such that reaction of this manner seemed inevitable when an increase was announced.

Occupation of the unlicensed site referred to in my last report continued, there being four vans occupied at the end of the year.

The unsatisfied need for pitches for touring caravanners remained, and at peak periods around mid-summer much more accommodation was required to meet this demand.

At a meeting with members of the County Planning Department a report to the County Council on this subject was discussed, including a recommendation that a site be established to the West of Wimborne, as the inadequate financial return from a transit site rendered it quite out of the question for a private individual to undertake its establishment. The Council then commenced negotiations for the purchase of a suitable parcel of land at Candys Farm, Corfe Mullen, but the site was sold privately.

An additional site for touring vans was completed during the year and will provide 40 "holiday" sites during the summer period.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Five premises were registered during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

No complaints arose as regards the condition of premises so that in this connection there was nothing on which to report.

In their routine visits, the Inspectors from time to time encountered instances of what could be termed "poor housekeeping", rather than actual infringements of legislation. In all such cases informal pressure was used in an endeavour to secure the necessary improvement.

Consultations with management of supermarkets and stores has continued as regards storage and handling of foods, in particular those areas where open foods were handled.

Routine inspections to check stock rotation were continued with the result that an increasing amount of attention was given to this aspect of the food trade.

Numerous consignments of imported cheese were received at the local cheese factory, and each container was examined by the Inspectors.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

	<u>No. Killed</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Birds</u> <u>Unsaleable</u>	<u>Total Weight</u>
<u>CORFE MULLEN</u>				
Chicken	26,107	52tons 6cwt	560	1ton $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt
<u>HOLT</u>				
Chicken	57,172	98tons $4\frac{1}{4}$ cwt	637	$19\frac{1}{4}$ cwt
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Birds</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Unfit</u>	<u>Unfit Weight</u>
	83,279	150 tons $10\frac{1}{4}$ cwt	1,197	1 ton $19\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.

CONDEMMED FOOD

Canned Meat	13 lb.
Miscellaneous Frozen Food	1,654 lb.
Miscellaneous Tinned Food	80 lb.

MEAT INSPECTION

The past year was uneventful, in that the work at the Abattoir followed the usual pattern of the meat trade.

A considerable proportion of English lambs were slaughtered for export. Trading with the Channel Islands continued at a steady level and spot checks of the containers used were undertaken periodically. Periodic checks of the lairages were also carried out to ensure regular cleaning.

Although reduced in numbers, trainee Inspectors from our neighbouring Authorities continued their visits for the purposes of practical instruction. Facilities were also given to two veterinary students for a short course of practical work, at the end of the year.

During the summer, complaints were received when drainage found its way through the storm water overflow

as the result of a breakdown in the main sewage pumping equipment. Both pumps and motors were completely overhauled and renovated and the storm water overflow plugged off, so that the only source of any future material was surface water from a short section of roadway between the two lairage buildings.

Incidence of Localised Cyst. Bovis, 1971

January	-
February	1
March	-
April	-
May	-
June	3
July	1
August	-
September	-
October	1
November	-
December	-
TOTAL	<u>6</u>

CARCASSES INSPECTED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	13847	7618	1184	87259	42097	-
Number inspected ...	13847	7618	1184	87259	42097	-
<u>All diseases except</u>						
<u>Tuberculosis & cyster cerci</u>						
Whole Carcass condemned	8	34	44	379	508	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	4769	5700	9	7693	4840	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	375	-
Total weight of meat condemned - all causes	387954 lbs.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960
ANALYSIS OF PREMISES TO WHICH THE REGULATIONS APPLY

	<u>Regulation 16</u>		<u>Regulation 19</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Applicable</u>	<u>Comply</u>	<u>Applicable</u>	<u>Comply</u>	
Grocers	145	145	104	104	145
Licensed Premises	48	48	48	48	48
Confectioners	46	46	46	46	46
Food Preparation Premises	17	17	17	17	17
Butchers	20	20	20	20	20
Bakers	6	6	6	6	6
Restaurants and Cafes	25	25	21	21	25
Greengrocers	29	29	24	24	29
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4	4
Fish and Chip Shops	4	4	4	4	4
Dairies	1	1	1	1	1
Wholesalers	4	4	3	3	4
	349	349	298	298	349

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of retail shops serving the district continued to grow, and the increasing number of tenants on the industrial estates also provided for the employment of a larger number of people.

The majority of plans submitted were examined in an effort to avoid contraventions of the legislation, but occasional variations were found to conflict with normal requirements.

Most establishments, being of comparatively modern construction, were well maintained, and gave little cause for complaint.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Annual report under section 60 to the Secretary of State for the year ended 31st December 1971

WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE R.D.C.

TABLE A
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	8	85	64
Retail shops	5	144	97
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	8	5
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	NIL	25	25
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	262	188

TABLE C
ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR.

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	215
Retail shops	426
Wholesale departments, warehouses	85
Catering establishments open to the public	110
Canteens	29
Fuel storage depots	NIL
TOTAL	865
TOTAL: Males	381
TOTAL: Females	484

TABLE B
NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES 285.....

12 APRIL, 1972

(Sd.) W.R. Chick
Chief Public Health Inspector

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	135	145	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	140	150	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects</u> <u>were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in</u> <u>which prosecutions</u> <u>were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

(table - Water)

	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>MAINS WATER</u>		<u>MAINS WATER- STANDPIPES</u>		<u>WELLS AND PRIVATE SUPPLIES</u>	
	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Popula- tion</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Popula- tion</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Popula- tion</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Popula- tion</u>
Aldeholt	323	958	305	917	6	12	12	19
Chalbury	51	143	47	139	2	2	2	2
Colchill	1,881	5,495	1,868	5,457	5	13	9	25
Corfe Mullen	1,650	5,045	1,637	4,866	4	12	9	27
Cranborne	208	600	178	553	-	-	30	47
Ermondsham	58	160	51	149	-	-	7	11
Gussage All Saints	83	241	81	236	-	-	2	5
Gussage St. Michael	64	175	59	166	1	2	4	7
Hampreston	4,329	11,510	4,321	11,489	2	4	6	17
Hinton Martell	109	385	105	376	-	-	4	9
Hinton Parva	22	60	19	57	3	3	-	-
Holt	408	1,118	196	1,095	-	-	12	23
Horton	132	380	115	350	1	2	16	28
Lorg CricheI	34	96	32	93	1	2	1	1
Moor CricheI	79	220	76	215	3	5	-	-
Parphill	251	774	229	738	-	-	22	36
Pentridge	78	229	68	205	-	-	10	25
Shapwick	73	215	70	205	1	2	2	8
Sixpenny Handley	263	761	244	720	8	16	11	25
Sturminster Marshall	438	1,330	420	1,281	1	3	17	46
Verwood	1,318	4,010	1,279	3,937	6	19	33	54
West Moors	1,793	5,510	1,786	5,485	1	2	6	28
West Parley	1,035	4,315	1,027	4,285	-	-	8	30
Wimborne St.Giles	143	415	134	397	1	2	8	16
Witchampton	146	419	142	410	2	5	2	4
Woodlands	136	442	130	424	2	6	4	12
	15,105	45,906	14,619	44,245	50	112	237	505

WATER SAMPLES - PRIVATE SUPPLIES

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>Class 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Corfe Mullen	1	2			3
Cranborne	16	1			17
Horton				1	1
Three Legged Cross	1			1	2

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Colehill	2				2
Corfe Mullen	46				46
Cranborne	3				3
Hampreston	39				39
Hinton Martell	1				1
Holt	5				5
Gussage All Saints	1				1
Sturminster Marshall	4				4
Verwood	39	1			40
West Moors	3				3
Wimborne St. Giles	1				1
Witchampton	1				1

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Reference was made earlier to the completion of the Three Legged Cross section of the Verwood drainage scheme, and this was a great relief to residents in the Village where constantly recurring troubles with cesspools had been experienced during periods of rain-fall.

Good progress was made with the proposed drainage for Alderholt, and in the latter part of the year a tender was accepted and work commenced. Sub-soil conditions proved to be worse than anticipated and accordingly progress was slowed down.

Preliminary work on a scheme for Sturminster Marshall was nearly completed, so that the proposals could be submitted to the Department of the Environment for approval. The sewers would drain both Sturminster Marshall and Shapwick to a disposal plant used jointly with Blandford Rural District Council, and these latter

proposals would be the last on the Council's original plan for sewers and sewage disposal over the district. The Council therefore were able to look at other smaller villages, and to examine the extent of their needs for main drainage.

Arrangements for the treatment of the greater part of the sewage collected by cesspool emptiers, at Palmers Ford Works were continued. In spite of the completion of the Verwood/Three Legged Cross drainage and the loss of a further 24 standing orders, the overall figures showed a drop of only 8 orders in September. This figure was being reduced at the end of the year, and it appeared that the demand for cesspool emptying would continue unabated.

REFUSE COLLECTION - CLEANSING

This section of the Department continued to cope with the ever increasing demands of a growing population, and appeared to be appreciated by the majority of ratepayers. The number of men employed remained the same, but there was a small turnover of staff. Several applications were received for employment, but replacements were restricted to men who could^{or}would be able to drive heavy goods vehicles. In years gone by troubles have been experienced through lack of drivers, and the need for a special qualification aggravated this problem.

An extensive examination of rounds and bonus figures was undertaken during the year, so that it was possible to revise some rounds in order to relieve others, and to balance out the work undertaken by the various crews.

The first stage of the Depot extensions was completed in the Spring, and enabled all the vehicles to be kept under cover. Commencement of the final stage, i.e. the maintenance area, was considerably delayed, and there was no progress until the Autumn. At the end of the year a considerable amount of work remained outstanding. The policy of regular inspection of the vehicles was initiated early in the year with a view to maintaining them at a high standard of safety. This resulted in higher running costs for the transport, but undoubtedly was the correct approach for a Local Authority to take in moving towards the Statutory requirement that all their heavy transport must receive regular Ministry examinations after Autumn, 1973.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Further complaints as to excessively amplified noise from licenced premises were received in spite of verbal agreement to reduce the volume.

Fortunately, the licence came before the local Magistrates for renewal, and one complainant availed himself of the opportunity to object.

The objection was supported by the Council's Officers, and the Magistrates accordingly made the renewal subject to conditions which effectively reduced the noise level in the surrounding area.

Informal action was taken and the co-operation of management obtained in securing the reduction of noise from "piped" music and also of the process in a panel beating factory. The remedies were evidently effective as no further troubles arose in this connection.

In spite of the weather conditions, poultry houses did not give rise to the problems that had arisen in earlier years. Observations were made, during the night, in one case, but the level of fan noise was not such as to warrant Statutory action.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1971

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1971		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL	
1. Number of properties in district	13,102	1,125	
2. a Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	530	210	
b Number infested by (i) Rats	465	150	
(ii) Mice	54	58	
3. a Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	208	3	
b Number infested by (i) Rats	28	2	
(ii) Mice	44	1	
SEWERS			
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?	YES		
SURFACE PROPERTIES AND SEWERS			
5. Any other points of interest?	The mice appear to be more resistant to modern baits.		

Date: 26 May 1972

Signed: F. Boam
for Chief Public Health Inspector

